

ECOSYSTEM STATUS INDICATORS***Benthic Communities and Non-target Fish Species*****Jellyfish – Eastern Bering Sea**

Contributed by Robert Lauth, Alaska Fisheries Science Center

Last updated: November 2005

The time series of jellyfish caught as bycatch in the annual Bering Sea bottom trawl survey was updated to include data from 2005 (Figure 81). The increasing trend in abundance that began around 1989, reported by Brodeur et al. (1999), did not continue in 2001-2005. In fact, the 2001-2005 catches decreased dramatically and were close to levels seen in the 1980s and early 1990s. The overall area biomass index for 2005 is 68,082 t. It is unknown whether this decline is due to a change in availability or actual abundance.

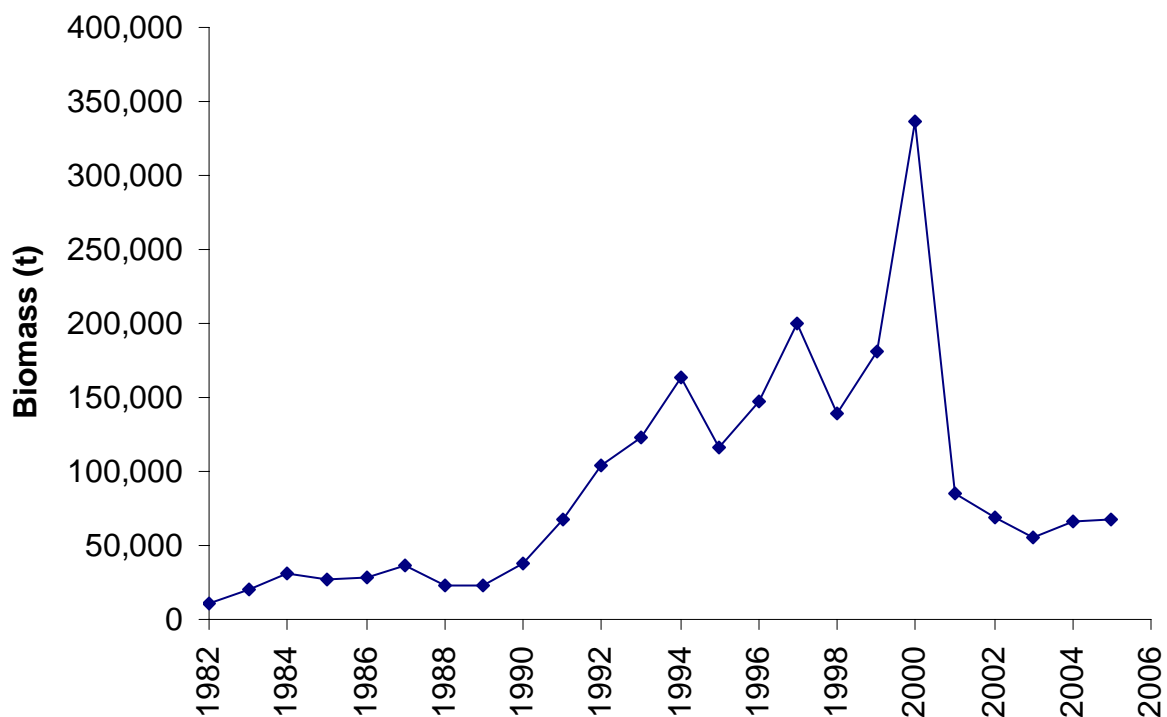


Figure 81. Index of large medusae biomass during the summer in the eastern Bering Sea from the NMFS bottom trawl survey, 1982-2005.